

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04484 01 OF 02 050930Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----113096 050932Z /11
Z O 050855Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9082
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 4484

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR MILI LE IS
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: PROPOSED TEXT OF LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO
BOUTROS

REF: STATE 197468

1. ALTHOUGH READING TEL AVIV'S 9975 AND 9996, PLUS UNHELPFUL
STATEMENT IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS BY PRIMIN HOSS THAT SITUATION
OF HADDAD AND SHIDIAC WAS JUST LIKE THAT OF ANYONE ELSE WHO
SIDED WITH THE ENEMY, CONVINCES ME WE ARE NOW IN IMPASSE,
FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT OF LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO BOUTROS.
I AM ASSUMING THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET ISRAELIS TO MODIFY
THEIR POSITION, AN ASSUMPTION I DO NOT MAKE WITH ANY CONFIDENCE.

2. DEAR MR. MINISTER: MY GOVERNMENT IS VERY ANXIOUS THAT A
WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE IN SOUTH LEBANON BE FOUND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04484 01 OF 02 050930Z

WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH LEBANON AND ISRAEL. DURING
MY VISIT TO ISRAEL I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS
THE QUESTION IN DEPTH AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY MR. BEGIN
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE STATIONING
AT TIBNIN OF THE LEBANESE UNIT NOW BLOCKED AT KAWKABA.

THE IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES WITH PASSAGE OF THE FORCE

RELATE TO THE ROUTE CHOSEN AND TO THE STATUS OF MAJOR HADDAD, WHO HAS BEEN COMMANDING REGULAR LEBANESE FORCES IN THE MARJAYOUN-QULAYA AREA.

MR. BEGIN HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FEELS IT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA AND TO MAJOR HADDAD IN PARTICULAR TO SEE TO IT THAT NOTHING IS DONE TO UPSET PRESENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THAT AREA OR TO PREJUDICE MAJOR HADDAD'S PERSONAL SAFETY. I BELIEVE THIS SENSE OF OBLIGATION IS GENUINE. THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO RECONCILE THAT WITH THE NEED TO REESTABLISH LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN SOUTH LEBANON AS VISUALIZED IN UNSC RESOLUTION 425.

AFTER DISCUSSION WITH MR. BEGIN, I PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING AS A PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE IMMEDIATE TASK OF GETTING THE LEBANESE FORCE TO TIBNIN:

(A) THE LEBANESE FORCE WILL ADVANCE BY ROAD FROM KAWKABA TO TIBNIN BY SERIAL, I.E., IN UNITS SMALLER THAN 650 MEN, THE TIMING AND COMPOSITION, ETC., TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED WITH THE HELP OF UNIFIL. THE FORCE WILL TAKE WITH IT ALL ITS EQUIPMENT.

(B) THE ROUTE TO BE FOLLOWED WILL BE DECIDED IN CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE LEBANESE FORCE COMMANDER,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04484 01 OF 02 050930Z

UNIFIL AND THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. (IT WILL, HOWEVER BE BASED ON A FURTHER MOVE TO THE SOUTH, I.E., NOT ON A RETROGRADE MOVEMENT.)

(C) THE QUESTION OF MAJOR HADDAD'S STATUS WILL BE SET ASIDE FOR THE TIME BEING. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT THROUGH DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

I AM WELL AWARE OF THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT OF A SETTLEMENT OF THE HADDAD ISSUE NOW. AFTER DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES HERE, HOWEVER, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE COMPROMISE DESCRIBED ABOVE IS THE BEST WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO REACH AT THIS POINT. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DISCUSSING THIS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND INFORMING AMBASSADOR PARKER WHETHER IT IS ACCEPTABLE.

PLEASE BE ASSURED, MR. MINISTER, OF MY HIGHEST REGARDS,

SINCERELY,
CYRUS VANCE.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04484 02 OF 02 050947Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----113245 050948Z /10

Z O 050855Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9083
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 4484

EXDIS

3. COMMENT: THREE POINTS ARE ROUGH OUTLINE OF WHAT I THINK
GOL MIGHT RPT MIGHT ACCEPT. WORDING REGARDING COMPOSITION
OF UNITS ETC., IN POINT (A) IS NOT TOO IMPORTANT HERE
BECAUSE PRINCIPLE IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOL. I CHANGED
ORIGINAL FORMULATION TO ONE LESS DETAILED BECAUSE I
GATHER MY DETAILS (NOT BOUTROS'S) GAVE EITHER TEL AVIV
OR DEPARTMENT TROUBLE. THE MORE SPECIFIC WE CAN BE,
HOWEVER, THE MORE CONCRETE OUR PROPOSAL WILL LOOK TO
LEBANESE AND THE EASIER IT WILL BE TO AVOID QUIBBLING WHEN
IT COMES TO IMPLEMENTATION. IF WE COULD AT THIS TIME
GET TOP ISRAELIS TO AGREE TO, SAY, FIVE SERIALS OF 130
MEN EACH (OR TEN OF 65 OR WHATEVER) IT WOULD MAKE IT
MORE DIFFICULT FOR HADDAD OR BENGAL TO PUT A SPOKE IN
WHEELS LATER.

4. REGARDING POINT (B) I AM VERY NERVOUS ABOUT THOSE
ROADS DRAPER IS TALKING ABOUT THAT DO NOT APPEAR ON ANY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04484 02 OF 02 050947Z

MAP. I INSTINCTIVELY DISTRUST SUCH VAGUE ARRANGEMENTS
AND WE ARE ASKING FOR TROUBLE BY LEAVING
THIS QUESTION OPEN. HERE IS ANOTHER POINT TO QUIBBLE
AND DELAY OVER. HADDAD AND BENGAL COULD STRETCH TALKS
ON THIS OUT FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS OR MONTHS. I THINK WE
SHOULD SPECIFY A ROUTE AND NOT RELY ON UNIFIL AND THE
PARTIES ON THE GROUND TO WORK IT OUT. EXPOSURE TO THE
DELIBERATIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF THE MIXED ARMISTICE
COMMISSION OVER 27 YEARS, AND MY OBSERVATIONS OF THE
PACE AND EXPERTISE OF UNIFIL, GIVE ME NO CONFIDENCE
WHATSOEVER THAT THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT ON THE GROUND.
PLEASE DRAW THAT LINE IN JERUSALEM, IF YOU CAN, AND DON'T
LEAVE IT TO THE AMATEURS AT KAWKABA. I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU
DRAW IT, BUT DRAW IT.

5. AS FOR POINT (C), HERE TOO WE ARE STORING UP TROUBLE
FOR OURSELVES BY NOT RESOLVING THE ISSUE AT THE TOP. I
UNDERSTAND THAT IT CANNOT BE RESOLVED NOW, BUT LEBANESE
ARE GOING TO BE BUYING A PIG IN A POKE AND HADDAD IS STILL
GOING TO BE WITH US A YEAR FROM NOW. THE LEBANESE UNDER-
STAND THIS TOO AND MAY WELL DECIDE THE GAME IS NOT WORTH THE
CANDLE.

6. WE HAVE BEGUN A PROCESS WITH NO CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT
THE END IS. WE HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON RENEWAL OF
THE UNIFIL MANDATE AND THE SUCCESS OF 425. WE HAVE
PERSUADED THE LEBANESE TO MOVE AND NOW THEY ARE STUCK,
LARGELY BECAUSE OF AN INTELLIGENCE FAILURE ON THEIR PART.
WHILE WE MUST CONCENTRATE NOW ON HELPING THEM OUT OF THEIR
PRESENT MESS, WE REALLY SHOULD LOOK MORE DEEPLY INTO WHAT WE
THINK WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE LEBANESE FORCE FINALLY GETS TO TIBNIN,
AND HOW THE PROBLEM OF THE ENCLAVES AND THE GOOD FENCE CAN
BE SETTLED. THE SEAT OF MY PANTS IS WEARING THIN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04484 02 OF 02 050947Z

FROM TOO MUCH FLYING BY IT.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, TEXTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT04484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780321-0604
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780893/aaaadaio.tel
Line Count: 211
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d761d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 197468
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1824415
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: PROPOSED TEXT OF LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO BOUTROS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, LE, IS
To: STATE TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d761d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014